

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the attention accorded to the instant application and the indication that Claims 1, 2, 4-22, 24-40 and 42 are allowable.

I. Claim Objections

The Examiner has objected to various claims for informalities. Applicant has amended Claims 1, 2, 4-10, 21, 22, 24-30 and 42 to conform to the Examiner's suggested changes.

II. Claim Rejections

The Examiner has rejected claims 23 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by WO 00/64605 to Imaizumi ("Imaizumi") (English equivalent – U.S. Patent No. 6,829,291). The Examiner has also rejected claim 43 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by the admitted prior art.

The Examiner has also rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Imaizumi in view of the admitted prior art.

The Applicant has cancelled Claims 3, 23, 41 and 43 thereby rendering the rejections moot.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-2, 4-22, 24-40 and 42 are allowable. Applicant has amended these claims in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion to overcome clerical and grammatical informalities. The amendments are not for reasons of patentability.

IV. Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that all pending claims 1, 2, 4-22, 24-40 and 42 are now in condition for allowance. Early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


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